

strong and independent judiciary. We are both nations that were created by pioneers seeking religious freedom. We are both pluralistic nations in which what you know and what you create is more important than who you are and where you came from. And, the United States must stand with Israel and must work to ensure that Israel endures as a Jewish State.

In the 62 years that followed its establishment, Israel has survived and flourished despite the repeated efforts to destroy her. Israel is a vigorous democracy, our strongest ally in the Middle East. Her economy is thriving, in large part as a result of her agricultural, technological and medical innovations. With a free and active press, freedom of religion, free elections and a free and independent judiciary, Israelis of all religions and nationalities enjoy rights and opportunities unimaginable elsewhere in the Middle East.

Israel constitutes a fraction of 1% of the land mass and only 2% of the population of the Middle East. Nonetheless, Israel far outshines much of the world in terms of academic, scientific and technological achievement. Israel has the highest ratio of university degrees per capita in the world and produces more scientific papers and more books per capita than any other nation in the world. It is the only nation in the world that has had a net increase in the number of trees. Israel has transformed itself from an impoverished backwater to a gleaming modern nation, ranking among the very highly developed countries of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Israel for its 62 years of independence, innovation and enterprise.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA VETERANS ON THE SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010 HONOR FLIGHT

#### HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2010*

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the nearly 100 World War II veterans from Southwest Florida traveling to Washington, DC on the Honor Flight on Saturday, April 24, 2010.

Since its inception in 2005, Honor Flight has flown tens of thousands of World War II veterans to our nation's capital to view the World War II Memorial. Thanks to the generosity of thousands of volunteers and businesses around the country, these heroes have an opportunity to visit the Memorial that was built to honor their service to our great nation.

I would like to recognize the following men and women from Southwest Florida who are taking the Honor Flight to Washington, DC: Kurt Boenker, Fred Warner, Vincent Marinera, Carl Price, Joseph Harrington, James Jarvis, Norman Jarvis, David Smith, Lawrence Phelan, Thomas Withrow, Robert Bricker, Henry Chiminello, Robert Voegel, Robert Schugg, Jack Anderson, James Cusick, Jr., Jack Blachley, Robert Hall, William Wardle, Ralph Cook, Leonard Nallman, Donald Lester, Thomas Mac Kimmie, Robert Stilson, John Drake, James Hausler, Alfred Pagles, Stanley Parks, Eugene Roaf, Edward Coombs, Ber-

nard Brehm, Aubrey Smith, Ronald Birchler, Elwood Grube, Ira Weisblum, George Brown, John Nemeth, Kenneth Sayers, Edward Sturm, Eugene Poslaiko, Emmett Yoder, Jr., Charles Brandenburg, Eleanor Purser, Dorothy Kurtz, Louis Spencer, Joseph Beauchamp, David McKalip, Kenneth Ferris, Robert Partington, George Mann, Donald Bunner, Frank Parker, Michael Ursitti, Elias Ursitti, Charles Rogers, Forrest Yeager, Paul Groves, La Moine Heimstead, Edward Texley, Robert Demmink, Curtiss Sarff, Ervin Locher, Paul Wilcox, Dominic Franciose, George Doucette, John Heck, Frank Barletta, Frank Oden, Jr., Wesley Bates, Eugene Andrews, Jorgen Brinch, Frank Mazzarisi, Edwin Ratcliffe, Lewis Riggles, Charles Briner, Carl Loiocano, Carlton Carson, Lew Hall and Frank Burns.

Throughout our nation's history, men and women have answered the call of duty in times of peace and in times of conflict. These veterans and their sacrifices have helped to preserve liberty and freedom around the world.

I would like to thank these veterans for their commitment to our country. I am honored to have these brave men and women visit Washington, DC. Madam Speaker, it is a true honor to represent these heroes in Congress.

#### COMMEMORATING DR. BARBARA-JAYNE LEWTHWAITE AS 12TH PRESIDENT OF CENTENARY COLLEGE

#### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2010*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Dr. Barbara-Jayne Lewthwaite upon being inaugurated as the 12th President of Centenary College in Hackettstown, New Jersey.

Dr. Lewthwaite is only the second woman and second former faculty member to hold the position since Centenary's founding in 1867. Part of the Centenary College community for more than 20 years, she brings to the post sound academic credentials, strong educational leadership skills and valuable business acumen.

Dr. Lewthwaite was appointed Acting President of the College on January 1, 2009. Since that time, she has used her academic background to enhance the College's mission: providing a student-centered liberal arts education with a career focus and a special emphasis on community service.

Before assuming the Presidency, Dr. Lewthwaite served Centenary in several leadership positions, including Chief Academic Officer and Acting Chief Operating Officer. As a member of Centenary's Executive Staff since 2003, she spearheaded significant accomplishments at the college: supporting the development of a faculty of talented teachers and scholars; upgrading academic expectations that are grounded in the adoption of standards such as the Centenary Greater Expectation Learning Outcomes; leading the academic assessment movement that resulted in the College being the first in New Jersey to receive pre-accreditation from the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC); achieving extensive articulation agreements with local

and global partners; and undertaking a major revision of the curriculum which included movement from a three-credit to a four-credit course curriculum, and numerous faculty-generated enhancements that have focused on experiential learning, service learning, global initiatives, and substantive new online offerings in the adult and traditional student programs on the graduate and undergraduate level.

Madam Speaker, we are fortunate to have Dr. Lewthwaite at the helm of Centenary College in northwestern New Jersey. With her leadership I am confident that Centenary will continue to provide high-quality education to its students, preparing them for the 21st Century.

#### THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

#### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2010*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

Major Scott Edward Barnett, has accomplished so much in his life. After talking to him, I understand that being in the military is a very rewarding life experience. I have learned so much after interviewing him.